CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS REPORT

DATE DIST. 12 Aug 1952

1952

CD NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

COUNTRY **SUBJECT**

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Hungary

Sociological - Emigration

HOW **PUBLISHED**

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Weekly newspaper

WHERE

DATE

PUBLISHED

Rome

PUBLISHED

LANGUAGE

Italian

11 Apr 1952

SUPPLEMENT TO

NO. OF PAGES 2

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Bollettino Danubiano.

REVISED HUNGARIAF EMIGRATION PROCEDURE

According to the agreement between the governments of Hungary and Israel, the Hungarian government formerly issued a fixed number of passports to Hungarian Jews emigrating to Falestine on payment of 2,000 dollars per person. This class of passport has now been suspended.

To prove, for propaganda purposes, that liberty is respected in Hungary, the Minister of the Interior announced that he would also issue emigration passports to persons in possession of immigration visas from any Western country. However, 90 percent of those who obtained visas were over 60 years old and were incapacitated by age or illness and were considered useless and undesirable elements of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Recently, the Hungarian government changed the emigration system, in order to obtain foreign currency, especially dollars. By promising relaxation of restrictions on a large scale, it hopes to acquire large sums in the desired cur-

It has been confirmed by competent and authoritative sources that the Swedish Red Cross began negotiations in March with the Hungarian government on the subject emigration of Hungarian citizens. Although these negotiations are still in progress, people in Budapest are already talking about the emigration permits on payment of 500 dollars by applicants over 60 years old or, in special cases, by applicants under 60 on payment of 1,000 dollars. These amounts must be deposited at the Zurich Bankverein in Switzerland, and released to the Hungarian National Bank on the arrival abroad of the emigrant.

The conditions and system of such emigrations are said to be the same as those established recently. The applicant must first ask for an information booklet at the passport section of the political police in Vorosmarthy UCJA. These booklets list all the required conditions and documents, such as birth certificate, medical certificate attesting the applicant's physical or mental inability to work, certificate of citizenship, certificate of residence issued by the municipal authorities, certificate of domicile issued by the police,

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certificate attesting regular payment of state and municipal taxes, certificate showing that the applicant is not in arrears in payments for light, gas, telephone, etc., and proof that there are no outstanding debts to private persons, institutions, banks, etc.

Application for an emigration passport, valid for 60 days, must be accompanied by all the above documents. In general, the application is rejected by the Ministry of the Interior on the first presentation, but the applicant may appeal within 2 weeks. Within about 3 weeks after the apppeal, the applicant may receive notification that he may recommence proceedings after 6 months. This means that not merely the documents, but even the various visas issued by western countries are no longer valid, and the applicant must begin over again.

If the application is accepted, the applicant receives notification to appear at the Emigration Section of the political police at 62 Stalin ut; where he obtains a parsport on payment of 450 forints.

The emigrant may take along personal effects up to the value of 5,000 forints. The effects are listed in an inventory in 14 copies. Each copy must bear a stamp costing 12 forints. The contents of all packages are examined and their value estimated by customs authorities before the stamp is affixed. At the Hegyeshalom border station there is another customs office where the emigrant must undress to undergo inspection by special personnel.

The emigrant is not allowed more than 200 forints in 10- and 20-forint banknotes.

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